



EARN is a community initiative led by United Way Ottawa

EMPLOYMENT
ACCESSIBILITY
RESOURCE NETWORK

EARN

MONTHLY E-NEWSLETTER

May 2015

Highlights:

Welcome to the inaugural edition of the EARN monthly E-Newsletter!

Each edition will include: recent initiatives/events, success stories, a recap of Susan's updates; new member announcements, upcoming events and activities; links to interesting and employment related articles; and a reminder on upcoming working group meetings.

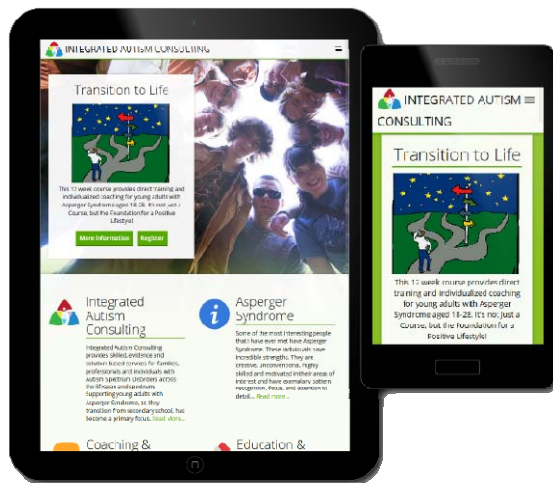
The purpose of the newsletter is to keep you informed about what EARN and it's members are working on plus what is happening in the province regarding disability and employment.

Your feedback on how we are doing is appreciated and valued. Send comments and suggestions to: sforster@unitewayottawa.ca.

Initiatives & Events:



On May 25th, 10 employers participated in a Mock Interview Session with 12 students from the Adaptive Learning Program at the Ottawa Carleton District School Board. As quoted by one employer *"I feel that the candidates brought me more than I brought them. It was an amazing experience for me!"* Thank you to Carleton U, Canada School of Public Service, HR Exec, City of Ottawa, Scotiabank, United Way, uOttawa, Delta Hotels, TD Bank and Accenture!



On May 26th, Susan Forster delivered a presentation focused on how EARN benefits jobseekers to 11 students with Asperger’s Syndrome (aged 18-24) and two staff members from Integrated Autism Consulting. The students are attending the firm’s “Transitions to Life” program at Algonquin College. A key learning for us was that few of the students knew about the employment supports component of ODSP. Thank you to Integrated Autism Consulting for this opportunity to reach out to youth with disabilities.

Upcoming Activities in June:

- ➔ Public Safety is hosting a targeted recruitment event for jobseekers with disabilities on June 1st. Three divisions of public safety will be participating: Canadian Security Intelligence Service, the Communications Security Establishment and Correctional Services Canada
- ➔ EARN will be presenting to the staff at Causeway Work Centre on June 3rd
- ➔ EARN will be presenting at CSIS’s Diversity Conference on June 25th

Success Stories:

Erin Wallace from Causeway Work Centre contributed *Debra’s Story: Sweeping Her Way to Success*. Here’s a synopsis:



Debra’s Story: After losing her husband and a sense of stability, Debra found herself financially insecure, and struggling to gain confidence. Causeway was able to secure a cleaning contract. With the help of her job coach, Debra not only landed the position but has continued to excel in the role. Even with changes in the work environment, Debra has developed a new found ability to adapt to change. She has retained employment for a year and her goals include staying at her current job and perhaps one day supervising.

Susan's Updates:

- The 2015 Outreach Tracker is now updated with 87 employer & community partner contacts to be engaged this year
- An Action Plan is being developed to maximize outreach & engagement opportunities, and to consider factors such as under-represented sectors and priority ways to engage prospective and new members

Welcome New Members:

- **BLN:** Conference Board of Canada www.conferenceboard.ca
- **BLN:** National Arts Centre www.NAC-CNA.ca
- **Employer Leadership Group:** Retire-at-Home Services www.retireathome.com

Upcoming Events:

- ➡ Thursday Sept 17th - Learning and Networking event
- ➡ Friday Oct 2nd - Career Fair 2015
- ➡ Proposed: Nov 4th or 5th event for jobseekers - Exploring Entrepreneurship
- ➡ Proposed: Nov 24th event for employers & service providers - Service Provider Expo

In the News:

- Did you know that **15%** of the world's population has a disability? That's just one fact. You can find out much more and how you can participate at Google's Impact Challenge by visiting <http://get.google.com/disabilitiesimpactchallenge/>
- The province of Ontario has just released *The Path to 2025: Ontario's Accessibility Action Plan* – key to its success – engaging employers! To read more: <https://www.ontario.ca/business-and-economy/path-2025-ontarios-accessibility-action-plan>
- New legislation is being proposed in Ontario to remove police background checks – <http://news.ontarionewsroom.com/mcscs/en/2015/06/ontario-removing-barriers-to-opportunity-through-changes-to-police-record-checks.html>

- The province of Ontario is investing in a new Abilities Connect Fund to fill labour gaps & boost competitiveness: <http://news.ontario.ca/medt/en/2015/06/helping-businesses-find-skilled-talent.html>

Upcoming Meetings:

Steering Committee

- Thursday June 4th from 9am-11am

Joint Working Group

- Tuesday June 9th from 9-11am

Note: Monthly meetings for the Steering Committee and the Joint Working Group (Employer Leadership Group and the Service Provider Resource Group) will be on hiatus until September 2015

Final Comments:

Stay tuned for our next edition, coming your way in early July. In the meantime, have a wonderful summer and please let us know of any initiatives or information from your respective organizations that you would like to share...and we will!

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